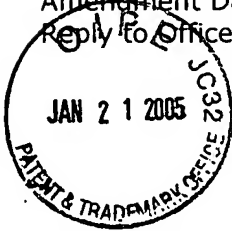


Appln. No.: 10/615,196
Amendment Dated January 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 16, 2004

Corres. and Mail
BOX AF

BBM-115US



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No.: 10/615,196
Applicant: Brian E. Dalton
Filed: July 7, 2003
Title: SPINAL STABILIZATION IMPLANT AND METHOD OF APPLICATION
T.C./A.U.: 3731
Examiner: Daniel J. Davis
Confirmation No.: 8029
Docket No.: BBM-115US

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated November 16, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

☒ **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 2 of this paper.